श्री जो. वेंकट स्वामी : सभापति जी, यह एन. टी.सी. की 9 सबसिडरिज हैं जिसमें से 7 सबसिडरिज बी.एफ.आई.आर. को रैफर हो गए हैं। अब एक और सबसिडरी भी जाने के रास्ते पर है, न मालूम आज या कल वह भी चला जाए। एक तमिलनाडु सबसिडरि बाकी रह जाएगा। ....(**व्यवधान**)....आप कालिंग-अटेंशन में बात करो न! प्लीज, मुझे बोलने दो। मुझे जवाब देना है मैम्बर को। तो सभापति जी, मैं ऑनरेबिल मैम्बर को मालूम कराना चाहता हूं कि बी.आई.एफ.आर. से विदड्रा करने का हक हमें नहीं है गवर्नमेंट को, जब यह जा चुका है। यह हो सकता है, वर्किंग क्लास, फ्युचर प्रोडक्टिविटि वगैरह उनको सेटिसफाई हुआ तो वह परमिट कर सकते हैं और उस प्रोसेस में हम हैं। उस प्रोसेस में जाकर बी.एफ.आई.आर. से डिसकस कर रहे है फ्युचर मोडर्नाइजेशन प्रपोजल।

श्री अजीत जोगी : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह अध्ययन अब पूरा हो गया है कि एन. टी.सी. की जो 124 मिलें हैं, उनमें से कितनी वास्तव में रिवाइव की जा सकती है और कितनी को वास्तव में बंद करना पड़ेगा? और, मध्यप्रदेश के संदर्भ में, मध्य प्रदेश में जो मिलें हैं, क्या यह सच है कि तीन मिलों को उनमें से आपने बंद करने का फैसला कर लिया है। यदि कर लिया है तो मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि इन मिलों में जो मजदूर काम कर रहे हैं उनके लिए क्या वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की जा रही है? जो वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की जा रही है, वह किस प्रकार की होगी ?

श्री जी. वेंकटस्वामी : सभापति जी, ऑनरेबिल मैम्बर को मैं यह बता देना चाहता हूं कि कोई तीन मिल ही नहीं बल्कि 14 मिल ऐसी है, जो क्लोजर की नौबत में हैं। इनमें मध्यप्रदेश की भी एक दो मिल आ सकती हैं। तो ऐसी मिलों को भी चलाया जा सकता है क्या, इसकी हम जांच कर रहे हैं और टोटल योजना 124 मिल की हम बनाने जा रहे हैं, जिसमें 13 टेकओवर मिल हैं, बाकी जो हैं एन.टी.सी. की मिले हैं। मैं ऑनरेबिल मैम्बर को बताना चाहूंगा कि जब कभी ऐसी कोई बात आई, क्लोज करने की बात आई, तो हाउस के सामने लाएंगे।

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : That means every worker will be without any alternative employment. Is that an assurance given by the Minister ?

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि सरकार ने जो रुग्ण मिलों के आधुनिकीकरण की व्यवस्था की है, इसकी जो योजना बनाई है, तो इसमें निश्चित रूप से नई एडवांस टैक्नोलोजी का उपयोग होगा? जब नई टैक्नोलोजी का उपयोग होगा तो उसमें श्रमिकों के विशेष प्रशिक्षण की भी व्यवस्था अवश्य होगी, ऐसी मेरी मान्यता है। मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि इसमें विशेष प्रशिक्षण के लिए सरकार ने कोई योजना श्रमिकों के लिए बनाई है या नहीं बनाई है? उसमें महिलाओं को भी प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा या नहीं दिया जाएगा? इसके साथ क्या उनके वेतन में भी कोई वृद्धि होगी या नहीं होगी ?

श्री जो. वेंकट स्वामी : सभापति जी, जब मोडर्नाईजेशन होगा, नई टैक्नोलोजी होगी तो जरूर ट्रेनिंग दिया जाएगा और उसमें लेडीज को भी ट्रेनिंग दिया जाएगा। मैं आपको विश्वास दिलाता हूं।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन: वेतन में वृद्धि होगी या नहीं होगी? यह भी बताइए।....(**व्यवधान**)....

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are having a calling attention on this question. We can go to the next question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Q. No. 125.

EFFECT ON INDIGENOUS INDUSTRY OF REDUCTION OF IMPORT DUTY

*125. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that reduction in import duties on projects and capital goods have affected the indigenous industry since no methodology has been evolved for certification of eligibility to import raw materials and components and discharge of bond for duty differential.

(b) if so, what are the details of the problem identified in the absence of such procedure since rupee is fully convertible and imports can be effected without licence;

(c) whether any representation has been made by the Indian Electrical and electronics manufacturing Association in this regard pointing out the disadvantages faced by domestic industry; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by the Government on each point represented by the Association ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (d) The Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association, in their letter dated the 18th March, 1993, have expressed their fear that in the absence of a procedure for certification of eligibility for import of raw materials and components under Project Imports and discharge of bond for duty differential, the reduction in import duty on capital goods and project imports is likely to affect the indigenous industry.

Under the provisions of the Project Import Regulations, a procedure for certification of eligibility of raw materials and components by the Directorate General of Technical Development or the sponsoring authority and attendant bond formalities are already in existence. In view of this, the fear expressed by the Association is unwarranted and the need to evolve a procedure as suggested, does not arise.

SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Sir, my first supplementary is this. The Government of India has reduced customs duty on power projects to 20 per cent and that on coal-mining projects and projects for refineries and crude petroleum to 25 per cent. Similarly, the Government of India has reduced customs duty on capital goods substantially. The major reason put forth is that such reduction would make the capital goods cheaper and would promote investment. The hon. Minister for Finance has emphasised that while effecting such reduction, the Government has not sacrificed the interest of the domestic industry. In all such cases, the domestic industry has been enabled to obtain its raw material, parts and components at identical levels of import duties. Thus, an indigenous manufacturer is enabled to import its requirements of raw material and components at identical levels of duty and compete with a foreign supplier.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the question ?

SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is seriously considering to issue instructions prescribing the procedure for certification of such imports at concessional rates of customs duty whenever any of the project authorities invite global tenders and whether any notification so issued would be applicable to projects established in the private sector also since the Government is encouraging entry of the private sector into these fields.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY : Sir, power being a thrust area in 1993-94, we have decided to reduce the duty to 20 per cent in the power sector and power projects, with a view to produce more power and distribute power to farmers as well as industries at cheaper rates. About the impact of the reduction in duty on import, the hon. Member has stated that it has got an impact on the indigenous manufacturers and indigenous industries. But, it is not true. Already protections are given to the indigenous manufacturers and they are enjoying certain facilities. When the indigenous manufacturers are competing for global tenders, the supplies against global tenders are considered as deemed exports and the terminal excise duty is refunded by the

Ministry of Commerce. One more incentive is, even the excise duty on capital goods manufactured indigenously has been reduced to 10 per cent and, especially, for power capital goods, the excise duty has been reduced to five per cent. Also, an indigenous manufacturer of capital goods can avail himself of duties at project import rates when he becomes a sub-contractor or a third party to the contract. The import duty levied on project imports for the importer and the duty levied on the manufacturer who supplies to the project are at the same concessional project import duty rates and they are on the same footing as the project importer. Another thing is, the concessional rates of project import duty are the same for both the private sector and the public sector, especially the power sector. And, in the new liberalisation policy, we wanted to reduce the obstacles. Licensing has been dispensed with and the DGTD has only to certify regarding the quantity of raw material to be imported under the Open-General Licences to get reduced rates on project imports. Any suggestions for any improvement of this system are welcome and they will be considered based on merits.

SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Sir, since the excise duty on intermediate products or inputs for the manufacture of final products is not meant to contribute to the revenue earnings of the Government the excise duty is 'modvatable'. The manufacturers of transformers, motors, capacitors, etc., were taking Modvat credit and using the same while paying excise duty on finished products. Thus, the duty on inputs like stampings and laminations, winding wires, aluminium foils, etc. used by the sector was not contributing directly to the exchequer. The entire production of stampings and laminations is used as inputs to electrical products. Stampings and laminations do not have any use as such or in other industries. Therefore, the total Modvat credit on inputs will exceed the final stage excise duty payment liability. Since Modvat payment cannot be made in cash, the differential will be extra cost burden on these products. What steps does the Government propose to take in this regard to reduce the excise duty on inputs ?

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY : Sir, as I have already said, even excise duty on capital goods manufactured indigenously has been reduced to 10 per cent and particularly on power capital goods excise duty has been reduced to 5 per cent. Thus, sufficient level of protection is given to the indigenous industry. At present there is no such proposal. Anyway, the Finance Bill is coming before this House.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Sir, the other day the Minister of Finance came to the House with a new policy for import and export in which imports have been further liberalised and the duties on many imports for goods and services have been reduced to 15 per cent. I would like to know whether this new policy has had further adverse effect on indigenous industries.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to know, when the Dunkel proposal which is now under negotiation becomes a GATT Charter, whether import fees will be reduced to the point of non-existence and, in that context, whether he will advise indigenous industries to prepare themselves for more difficult times, more competition, instead of seeking more protection.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY : Sir, the main thrust behind this liberalisation policy is to reduce obstacles and to improve exports so that we can improve the balance of payments. Regarding the point raised by the hon. Member about the adverse effect on the indigenous industries, as it stands today,

we have given sufficient protection to the indigenous manufacturers and indigenous industries. It is too early to estimate any impact in these areas. Regarding the Dunkel proposal, the Government is open. We will come before this House and whatever suggestions we get we will take into consideration and we will do in the interest of the country keeping in mind the sovereignty of the country.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Sir, I would like to know whether it is true that the Electronics Manufacturers' Association brought to the notice of the Government an anomalous situation, that is, duty on raw materials is more and duty on finished goods is less. So, when the finished goods become cheaper the indigenous industry is affected. What is the action that the Government has taken to retrieve the situation ?

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY : Sir, as I have already said, we have given sufficient level of protection to the electronics industry also. It is not true that there is any adverse impact on this industry.

*126. *The questioner (Shri M. Hanumanthappa) was absent. For answer vide col.* infra).

WORLD BANK REFUSAL FOR FINANCING THE ONGOING PROJECTS

*127. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has indicated about the stoppage of further Finance for the completion of on-going projects;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Statesman, Delhi dated the 21st April, 1993 captioned "World Bank stops funds to 23 Indian projects."

(c) whether the bank is taking negative attitude by and large of Indian proposals now;

(d) whether Government have ascertained the reasons behind such move; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No Sir. The World Bank has not indicated to the Government of India its intention to stop further finance for the completion of on going projects.

(b) to (e) The World Bank has not stopped funding of 23 Indian projects as referred to in the newspaper article. Resettlement and Rehabilitation issues have resulted in the temporary suspension of credit on only one irrigation and one power project recently. Proposals forwarded to the World Bank for all sectors continue to receive due consideration and support from them.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that a copy of the reply was not received by me. It should have been in the pocket here. But it was not there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Group Dial System in the country

*126. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the progress achieved so far in Group Dial System ;

(b) what is the number of Groups working in the country; and